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PATENT

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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

1-28-04

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

Rasen Karlin

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael G. Katze et al.

Application No.: 09/972,756

Filed: October 5, 2001

For: NOVEL SCREENING METHODS TO IDENTIFY AGENTS THAT SELECTIVELY INHIBIT HEPATITIS C VIRUS REPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Vogel, Nancy T. Examiner:

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1636

AMENDMENT

In response to the first Office Action mailed October 2, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A petition to extend the time for response one month, from January 2, 2004 to February 2, 2004, is submitted herewith. A terminal disclaimer is also submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

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